

Chafee Newsletter

July 2006

IL Contracted Service Providers

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**Education and Training Voucher Program**  
[www.statevoucher.org](http://www.statevoucher.org)

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Featured website:
www.educationalsuccesses.org
This is an excellent tool to assist youth with career planning.

Revised Independent Living Policy Available Online

The revised IL Policy is now available online at <http://www.in.gov/dcs/policies/cwmanual.html>. The policy is in PDF format and can be printed off as desired. WORD documents of the forms and some tools are attached to this newsletter for use. The forms and some tools are being developed into state forms and will be made available online at a later date. The location of these forms and tools online will be provided when they become available.

Regional IL Provider Training Held in March

Training was well attended with good questions from providers. Based on questions from the three trainings that were held, it appears that much work needs to be done to ensure that youth are being appropriately prepared for independence.

It is important that everyone working with youth in foster care understand that Chafee funds are to supplement the youth's efforts, not to subsidize the youth until age 21 or enable the youth to remain dependent on the system. It is vital that all youth receiving assistance understand the need to take charge of their life through employment and appropriate management of their money. From the first meeting with the youth at age 16, information must be provided to the youth regarding expectations and responsibilities while assistance is provided.

Additional Training to be Held

Training will be held in July and August in at least 6 locations across the state for staff of Residential Facilities, Group Homes, LPCA Foster Care Agencies, and agencies not previously contracted to provide Chafee IL services. Training will cover new policy related to required services for youth age 16 and older in care. Use of the Ansell Casey Life Skills Assessment will be covered as well as the development of an independent living plan based on the assessment for each youth in care. Dates and locations are being finalized and notification will be provided through the IARCCA Monday Morning Update for member agencies and direct email notice for all Chafee contracted service providers.

For those agencies contracted to provide Chafee services who were unable to attend the IL Policy Trainings that were held in May and June, this training would be very helpful in understanding the changes in policy.

State Youth Advisory Board Applications Needed

The current Youth Advisory Boards (YAB) will be disbanded as of June 30, 2006. A new State Youth Advisory Board will replace the 13 regional boards. Charlene Hederick of Hederick Partnerships was selected to manage the State YAB and the contracting process has begun. One youth will be selected from the applications submitted to serve on the State YAB from each region with selection made by the Regional Services Council.

Contact info:

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Warren Co. DCS
20 W. 2nd Street
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Central Office

Serving on the State YAB will be an excellent opportunity for youth to obtain training in leadership, advocacy, and public speaking and to develop skills in these areas that will benefit them as they apply for internships, submit essays for contests and scholarships, and other areas of leadership. Participation on the YAB will also help the youth to build their resume as they seek employment. *Please provide the application form to all youth age 16 up to age 21 who are being provided services that may be interested in applying for this opportunity.*

Youth participating on the YAB will be provided with a \$25 stipend as will the person who transports them for each meeting attended. The transporter will also receive mileage at \$.40 a mile to and from each meeting. There will be 6 meetings annually which will include some overnight stays with meals and hotel expenses covered by the YAB contractor for the participant and the person transporting the youth. Youth will participate in the Children's Best Interest Conference in February, Regional IL Youth Conferences in June, Foster Parent Conference in November, and assist the state with developing policy and materials for youth in care.

On-Site Visits

The DCS will be auditing contracts informally through on-site visits to ensure that contracted services are being provided as required and that the files for the youth contain required documents. Prior to a visit, a list of open cases will be requested. When the visit occurs, random cases will be selected for review. This does not take the place a formal audit conducted by the Audit Department of FSSA.

MEDICAID Available for Youth Aging out of Foster Care

All youth turning 18 in foster care will be eligible for Medicaid as of July 1, 2006 and will continue their eligibility as long as they meet the income and re-determination requirements. Family Case Managers will fill out a Foster Care Independence Referral and complete the Medicaid application form for all youth currently in care one month prior to the youth's 18th birthday. This process will ensure that all youth aging out of foster care have continuing services. It will be the responsibility to the youth to complete the re-determination for continued eligibility when required up to age 21 as long as they remain financially eligible for Medicaid.

Youth who have already aged out of foster care at age 18, must go to the Department of Family Resources in the county where they reside and apply for Medicaid and be sure to inform the public assistance worker that they turned 18 in foster care. Eligibility will be determined through the local DCS office if the youth aged out of care from that county. If the youth aged out of foster care in another county, eligibility will be established through the Help Desk or the Policy Answer Line who will obtain the information from DCS in Central Office.

For youth currently receiving case management services, it is very important that the contracted Chafee service provider assist the youth in applying for Medicaid and advise the youth of the need to maintain their eligibility by meeting the re-determination requirements annually.

Case Management

Case management and what that entails has become a major concern of Family Case Managers in ensuring that youth are receiving appropriate services to prepare them for independence. Case management should include all of the following:

1. Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment (ACLSA) to be completed within 30 days of receiving the referral for the youth and a copy emailed to the referring FCM or Probation Officer
2. Development of the IL Plan based on the identified strengths and needs of the youth in conjunction with the youth and the referring worker
3. Individual work with the youth on identified needs prioritizing needs based on the age of the youth including experiential learning when possible
4. Group and individual work on items such as budgeting, financial management, resume writing, job applications, practice interviewing, getting along in the workplace with peers and employers, post-secondary education exploration, career

planning, etc.

5. Identifying the material needs and services needed by the youth
6. Requesting and purchasing identified emancipation goods and services
7. Progress reports monthly or quarterly as requested by the referring worker addressing service being provided and progress or lack of progress with identified goals for the next period of service

The ACLSA and progress reports are to be provided to the referring FCM or Probation Officer for youth with open CHINS or probation cases and to Mary Lou Easter at mary.easter@dcs.in.gov for youth ages 18 to 21 receiving voluntary services

Frequently Asked Questions

General Issues

1. When is a new application required for Voluntary IL Services required?

Once a youth is determined eligible for room and board and case management or only case management, they are eligible until they turn 21 and may move in and out of services up to age 21. The only time a new application is needed is when the youth moves to another county or to a different provider for services.

2. Does the IL referral need an end date?

Yes. The end date for a CHINS or probation youth is the youth's 21st birthday if continuing CHINS or probation wardship beyond age 18, since services are ongoing.

3. Will a conflict with the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) hold up processing of the new contracts?

Any conflict with DWD or Department of Revenue will hold up any possible contracts. Conflicts must be resolved prior to any contract moving forward.

4. Can contracted Chafee service providers accept referrals from the probation officer?

Referrals for IL services for probation youth must be sent through the DCS since DCS is responsible for payment of the services. If a referral is received from a probation officer, the probation officer should be informed that the referral must be signed off by the DCS before services can start.

5. How do we verify a case plan has been entered in ICWIS in order to serve probation youth?

Case plans are required to be entered into ICWIS for all probation youth. If there is a question, contact Mary Lou Easter for verification. If a probation youth does not have a case in ICWIS, they are not eligible for services until the case is entered and a case plan is completed.

6. When and who can do a Free Credit report with youth? At what age?

Due to the need for credit checks when the youth needs to rent housing and set up utilities, credit reports must be requested by the youth at age 17. This allows time to contact the credit reporting agencies to clear up any bad credit that may be on the report due to others using the youth's social security number.

7. Who determines eligibility for Social Security? Does provider have any role in helping youth?

If the youth is still a ward, the State contracts with Sequoia to assist the counties in identifying youth who may be eligible and assist in applying for SSI if needed. If the youth is receiving voluntary services and it is suspected that a youth may be eligible for SSI based on developmental delays, mental health issues, etc., the agency should assist the youth in submitting an application for SSI benefits. If the application is denied, the agency should assist the youth in filing an appeal and in the appeal hearing if necessary. A youth may be potentially be eligible for SSI if they:

- Receive Psychiatric Hospital Services
- Receive Special Education Services
- Has Documented Developmental Delays
- Has Documented Severe Learning Problems
- Receive Intensive Medical Services/Treatment
- Are under age 22 if a student regularly attending school, college or training that is designed to prepare youth for a paying job
- Non-wage income does not exceed \$579

- Resources do not exceed \$2000

8. What is the age to apply and participate in new State Youth Advisory Board (YAB)?

The age for interested youth is between the ages of 16 and 21. This new board will be an opportunity for youth to develop leadership skills that will benefit them in building their resume as well as when they apply for internships following foster care. There will be one youth from each of the 18 DCS regions selected to be on the YAB.

9. Could a checklist with timelines for the documents & forms needed by the IL Field Specialists (ILFS) be distributed to providers?

The Voluntary Services Caseworkers contract will end on June 30th. Until such time that the ILFS are hired, the information listed below must be provided to Mary Lou Easter at 20 W. 2nd Street, Williamsport, IN 47993. When the ILFS are hired, notification will be provided to each provider as to the ILFS for the regions being served and the address to begin sending the following documents:

1. Copy of the Referral form as soon as received by the Chafee provider
2. Voluntary Services Agreement when signed by the youth received by the Chafee provider
3. ACLSA by email within 30 days of the referral
4. IL Plan within 30 days of the completion of the ACLSA
5. Chafee Assessment by email at the conclusion of 6 months of service and case closure
6. Quarterly Progress Reports
7. Paper copy of the Discharge or Post-Discharge Summary at case dismissal

10. How can providers assist IL youth that are not capable of pursuing post-secondary education and may have disabilities (physical and/or mental/psychological problems who are not college material or employable and may be dependent on the "system" after age 21) in becoming self-sufficient?

There are many ways that youth described above may be assisted in becoming independent or connected to other programs such as:

1. Assisting SSI eligible youth in obtaining a representative payee through social security to manage the youth's funds
2. Applying for Section 8 and HUD housing
3. Applying for services through Vocational Rehabilitation
4. Applying for services through the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services (BDDS)
5. Researching transitional housing programs that may be available
6. Searching out and applying for other such services available in the community.

11. If a County DCS requests IL services from a contracted provider for a CHINS or probation youth in an LCPA home, a group home or other placement that should have an IL program covered through their per diem, can the provider accept this referral? If so, how should the provider proceed with services? How should this be billed?

The county should be informed that the referral cannot be paid with Chafee funds. If the county chooses to have the services provided by the agency, the services are to be billed to the county directly. The county will need a contract with the service provider for that service to bill the county directly.

EMANCIPATION GOODS AND SERVICES (EG&S)

12. Should an IL plan be done prior to distribution of emancipation goods and services funds?

The assessment is to be completed and a plan developed before the distribution of EG&S funds except where extenuating circumstances exist such as a youth who will be provided case management services through a Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services (BDDS) placement.

13. Who is responsible for payment when the Director has signed off on an emancipation goods and services request and then the State says it will not be approved?

Information related to this issue was included in the 2005 November-December IL News Bulletin sent out on December 13, 2005 (*The "other" category was included for appropriate items that may be needed and funded through Chafee funds but are not on the list. If a requested item is not on the list, the approving DCS staff person and contracted Chafee service provider must contact the State IL Coordinator to determine if the item is an appropriate Chafee expenditure.*) Any requests from the contracted agency or signed approval by the county staff after July 1, 2006 without requesting approval from the State IL Coordinator will not be paid with Chafee funds.

If the agency serving a youth believes that an item or service is needed that is not on the form, a request must be made in

writing to the State IL Coordinator. If approval is given, the written approval must be attached to the form when submitting a request for the item or service in the "other" category from the county.

14. Can another provider without a Chafee contract purchase goods & services for a client from Chafee funds?

No. Only agencies with Chafee contracts may request Chafee funds for the purchase of goods and services. The youth must be in an eligible placement before a referral is made to a contracted agency.

15. What about referrals for youth who are moving into a BDDS group home or similar living arrangement and receiving case management services through that agency?

The County must make a referral to a Chafee service provider to request EG&S funds for personal items for the youth. The agency receiving the referral should meet with the youth and the BDDS case manager to identify needed items. This referral does not need an Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment (ACLSA) or the Chafee Assessment completed since the service can be provided within 30 days of the referral. If more than 30 days elapses from the date of the referral and the provision of services, these assessments must be completed prior to closing out the case.

16. Can food other than staples be purchased?

The purpose of staple food as an allowable expense is to allow the youth to purchase the items that most kitchens have on hand at all times such as salt, pepper, sugar, flour, shortening, seasonings, etc. A two weeks supply of food may be purchased for the youth based on menus. Youth will be responsible for food purchases following the initial start up assistance. Food pantries may be accessed in the community when needed.

17. If the youth has a cell phone, can a phone card with minutes be purchased?

One phone card can be purchased to assist the youth initially and can be billed through emancipation goods and services. Youth are responsible for any additional phone card purchases.

18. Does the combo TV/DVD/VCR mean they have to have all of these in one? What if it doesn't have a VCR? What if the youth just needs a TV?

TV/DVD/VCR combo, TV/DVD combo, TV/VCR combo, or TV may be purchased. DVDs and VCRs are not to be purchased separately since a TV is needed to operate them. Youth may borrow DVDs and videos from the library for entertainment without cost.

19. How do we bill for bus trips that are made with the youth when receipts are not provided for individual bus fares?

The agency could purchase a larger number of bus tokens with a receipt and then bill them individually with a copy of the receipt attached when used. This includes bus fares used by staff as well as students to teach the use of the bus system or to provide the youth with transportation assistance.

20. Can EG&S be used to pay for the SAT fee?

All foster youth are entitled to take the SAT one time at no cost. High school counselors are aware of the waiver of fees for foster youth. If the youth needs to take it again to improve their score or was unable to keep the initial scheduled appointment, the cost of this fee may be approved through emancipation goods and services.

21. Is the ACT test available at no cost also?

The school counselor should be contacted for this information.

22. Is there a limited number of times at EG&S may be requested?

There is no limit to the number of times that requests may be made but there is a \$1000 spending limit for youth between ages 16 to 21.

23. Are receipts required for all purchases? If so, what about stores such as Goodwill that don't provide itemized receipts?

The receipt must have the name of the company or store stamped on it. The item purchased may be written in where the cost is listed on the receipt.

24. What if our contract goes over the 30% limit on room & board that is in individual contracts?

A letter should be submitted to the State IL Coordinator requesting that the percentage be increased. This requirement has been removed in the 2006-2008 contracts since the 30% limit covers the entire allocation from the federal government not the individual contract with providers.

25. What is included in work related clothing?

Examples of work related clothing are included on the EG&S form. If a youth is homeless or does not have at least 4 changes of clothing for work, clothing may be purchased including under/outer wear and shoes to cover at least 4 work days. When clothing is being purchased for this purpose, a note explaining the situation should accompany the receipts when the claim is submitted.

26. What if youth has used up the \$1,000 for EG&S and needs more?

If extenuating circumstances exist, a written request must be submitted to the State IL Coordinator for approval. If approval is given, the approval must be included with EG&S form identifying the requested and approved item/service and the cost of the item/service with the claim when submitted. The request for additional funds must include an itemized list of previously purchased items and the cost of the items along with an estimate of additional items needed.

27. Who approves "Other" on the EG&S form?

The State IL Coordinator.

28. Can ES&G funds be used for a youth while they are applying for Education Training and Voucher (ETV) funds?

Yes if the youth is receiving case management services and the funds are not for post-secondary expenses that are available through ETV funding. All post-secondary expenses must be funded through ETV funds. Funds may be used for other items/services needed by the youth while attending post-secondary institutions.

29. As a learning tool, is it allowable for an agency to open an account with and for a youth w/funds (estimated need) in order to learn budgeting, check book, so youth would actually write checks, etc.?

No. The funds must be expended by the agency for reimbursement.

30. Can checks be made out to staff and/or youth or only vendors?

Staff may be reimbursed by the vendor for EG&S items purchased for youth if they have an approved request and provide receipts for all purchased items. Youth are not to be provided funds for the purchase of approved EG&S. Items must be purchased by the agency. Reimbursement will be provided by the State to the vendor when claims are submitted.

31. Can Room & Board be used for renters insurance?

Renters insurance can be purchased through EG&S, not room and board.

ASSESSMENTS

32. There is concern that the validity is compromised by the frequency of the ACLSA being given since some clients will just go through and answer in the middle of the scale. Do youth have to be assessed so often?

The initial assessment is completed by the youth to determine the strengths and needs of the youth. Follow up assessments are to be completed every 6 months following the initial assessment. Each youth is required to have an updated case plan every 6 months which should include progress on the services and any changes that are needed based on a new assessment. If at any time it appears the youth is not answering the questions honestly, the provider should discuss the answers with the youth to determine if there is a problem with youth's perception of the questions.

33. When are Chafee Assessments done? What if case closes right away?

Chafee Assessments are completed at www.chafee.org by the youth, if at all possible, at the conclusion of 6 months of services and at case closure. If the case closes right away, the Chafee Assessment is to be completed by the youth or the adult based on known information.

TRANSITION SERVICES

34. When should transition planning begin for youth in residential facilities, group homes, or therapeutic and special needs foster care since they are not being provided with Chafee services?

Transition planning is to begin for all youth in care at age 17 with a transition planning conference. This conference is required to assist the youth in thinking about their future plans and to complete the youth inventory to determine where the youth is at that point in time and determine what is needed for the youth to become independent at 18 or later. A referral for Chafee transition services will be made following the transition planning conference when the youth is 17½ once it is determined where the youth plans to reside following dismissal of their case.

35. What about a youth that a Chafee IL service provider is already serving?

If the provider is already providing services because of the eligible placement of the youth, services are to intensify at 17½ to ensure that the youth is being prepared to live independently when their case is dismissed. A transition referral is not required for youth being provided services in local foster care, relative care, or non-licensed court approved placements. The transition planning conference should address the needs of the youth as described in question number 33.

36. Can we accept referrals for wards in residential for transition services?

The only time that youth in residential can be served by Chafee service providers is when the youth is 17½ and a DCS referral is received for transition services.

37. What is involved in transition services and how do they get started?

When the referral is received, the service provider should contact the youth's case worker at the facility where the youth is placed to arrange a meeting with the youth and the case worker. Once the initial contact is made, the agency should meet with the youth at least once a month. Transition services allow for relationship building between the Chafee provider and the youth and the gathering and sharing of information with the youth related to employment and housing upon dismissal of the youth's case.

38. If the agency is called into residential to help youth with housing and services prior to wardship dismissal, how can this be achieved?

If a transition referral has not been made and a residential facility request Chafee services, the facility must be asked to contact the youth's case manager and request that a transition referral be made if the youth is 17½. Contracted Chafee IL service providers are not to provide services without a referral from the county.

39. How long should we serve youth who will be moving to a group home or other housing program through Bureau of Developmental Disability Services (BDDS)?

Case management will be brief since this service is provided by BDDS. The purpose of a referral for youth moving to a BDDS facility is to purchase items for the youth through EG&S. If a meeting is held with the youth and needed items are purchased within 30 days, the ACLSA is required since case management services are only being provided for the purchase of needed goods or services for the youth.

ROOM AND BOARD

40. Is telephone a billable utility?

The landline phone deposit is a billable utility however long distance should not be included in the services requested as extensive long distance calls could cause a youth to be unable to pay their phone bill and cause them to lose service. Monthly phone bills are the youth's responsibility after the first month. Back phone bills are the responsibility of the youth. Youth with computers may need landline phones if they wish to be connected to the internet.

41. Can a list of all billable utilities be obtained?

Billable utilities through room and board include phone, gas, electric, and water. Deposits may be made and assistance with the first bill. Youth must take responsibility for the payments after the first month.

42. What is the provider responsibility to maintain services with voluntary IL youth that are not complying with case management or are uncooperative but still want to receive rent payments and emancipation goods/services?

Early parameters must be made clear to youth while transition services are being provided. All youth should be taken to homeless shelters at the beginning of room and board assistance to ensure they are aware of their options if they choose not to follow the rules of eligibility. Youth making the decision not to participate in case management will face the consequences of their actions as they forfeit assistance through room and board funding.

If a youth who loses room and board assistance chooses to return to case management services for a period of 30 days, the youth may be reinstated with room and board assistance on a probation period of 30 days provided he/she continues with case management services. This funding is meant to supplement the youth's efforts, not to enable the youth to maintain dependence on the system. The agency must document all contact with the youth including complete narratives of interaction between the agency and the youth when assistance is ended due to the youth's unwillingness to participate in case management services.

43. As a youth gets closer to 6 month time period of room and board assistance and further assistance is needed, what

needs to happen for an extension to be granted?

The agency with input from the youth must submit a letter explaining the circumstances that prevents the youth from taking responsibility, what the youth is doing to help themselves and the youth's detailed plan to remedy the problem with a timeframe in which the youth expects to take full responsibility for their own expenses. The letter should be submitted to IL State Coordinator as soon as it is determined that further assistance will be needed.

44. If a youth has a roommate, can we still assist the youth with room and board funds? Is a spouse a considered a roommate?

If a youth has a roommate, the deposit and the first months rent is only paid for the youth's half (or less if more than one roommate) of the costs. Incremental assistance through the 5th or 6th month is also provided only on the youth's share of the rent. A spouse is considered a roommate.

45. What about residential youth who are not able to find a job in the first month? What should be done in those situations since most are not job ready?

When a youth is referred and it is obvious after a few meetings that it will take longer for the youth to obtain employment, information regarding the situation should be send to the State IL Coordinator. The situation will be evaluated and a determination will be made regarding the length of time the youth may be funded. It is important to try to locate housing with rent that the youth can afford with minimum wage including the possibility of a part-time job in addition to a full-time job or two part-time jobs. It is important to search out group housing, single occupancy rooms, efficiency apartments or other such housing for youth who may have difficulty locating employment. Many cities have transitional housing available for homeless or near homeless people. Youth may improve their options for housing once they improve their employment skills.

46. Is it true that every youth gets \$3,750 when they age out of foster care for room and board assistance?

As of July 1, 2006, the amount will be reduced to \$3,000 since there will not be a county match (The additional \$750 was what was paid through the county match). An exception may be made through September 30, 2006 for youth currently being provided room and board assistance in situations where the additional funds were previously planned for to ensure the youth's ability to become independent.

47. What is the minimum amount of case management service required when room and board is provided to a youth?

At least one face-to-face contact per month. Phone or email contact should take place between the face to face contacts. All contact with the youth must be clearly documented including a narrative of the discussion. This funding is to supplement the youth's own efforts so the amount of contact must be sufficient to ensure that the youth is maintaining employment and budgeting appropriately to develop and maintain independence.

48. What if an agency has a high incidence of youth being evicted?

Agencies have no control over the referrals they receive so the likelihood of evictions is highly probable. All evictions should be reviewed to determine the reason for the eviction. It may be necessary to restructure the services being provided to the youth to try and decrease the possibility of youth being evicted. Youth receiving room and board assistance must be held accountable for their actions that create evictions and further assistance for evicted youth will be on a probationary basis.

49. Is there a number of times we can pay the first months rent?

Youth may need assistance more than one time due to the uncertainty of employment as well as personal issues that create instability for the youth. The purpose of assisting youth incrementally with room and board assistance is to allow funds to be available if the youth needs assistance starting over with new housing a second or third time.

50. Should we continue to provide room and board assistance for a youth who continues to be non-compliant in participating in services?

Youth who are non-compliant in participating in services, maintaining employment, etc., may lose their room and board assistance. This assistance is provided to supplement their own efforts and if no efforts are being put forth, the funding will end. Youth requesting to be reinstated must prove they are serious about participating in services by doing so for at least 30 days before funding is reinstated. Youth receiving room and board assistance must be employed so if the youth chooses not to become employed or remain employed, then the funding will end.

51. Can room and board pay to get out of a lease if the youth doesn't feel safe, maintenance isn't keeping up, or a roommate is moving out and the youth can't afford the apartment alone?

It is important to look for short term leases due to the instability of some youth. Safety issues should be considered prior to

renting an apartment. In a situation where a break-in has occurred or some similar situation, the situation will be reviewed to determine if the youth will be assisted to get out of the lease. Each scenario will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

52. What should the maximum monthly payments be for host home in the youth's foster home? What should be included?

Host home payments should be less than foster care since the service does not include 24/7 responsibility for the youth. The Host Home Agreement should be used to determine what will be included and to negotiate the amount to be paid.

53. Should a relative host home be different than a non-relative host home? Background checks?

Since the youth at age 18 is considered an adult and capable of making their own decision as to where they will live, there are no background checks required. The Host Home Agreement should be used as a guide to develop an agreement.

54. When the foster home becomes a host home for the youth is the first month considered as "regular" rent? i.e. How does this effect the 6-month time period for phasing out rent for host home & regular rent?

Host home is no different than any other housing arrangement. The host home may require a deposit and first months rent as does an apartment lease. The youth is to take responsibility for the payments incrementally as with an apartment lease. If the youth is ready to move to his/her own apartment prior to age 21, the youth is to be assisted with a deposit and first months rent and incremental assistance through the 5th month.

55. If a youth is incarcerated, can they receive room and board funding when they are released?

If the youth is eligible for room and board funding, they can receive assistance following their incarceration.

56. If a youth came to America from Africa and was put into foster care and is now 18 and she can't get a job because of an issue with her green card and she has no ID, can room and board be used to pay for housing?.

A youth without a green card most likely would not have her case dismissed due to her inability to work without a green card. Assisting in obtaining a green card must be a priority. Until she is able to work, she must be involved in volunteer work that could lead to employment when she receives her green card. It would be very important to try to find a sponsoring organization that would be willing to sponsor her until she is able to obtain employment. Room and board assistance requires the youth to be employed.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING VOUCHER PROGRAM (ETV)

57. Can Chafee room and board funds supplement a youth while he/she is waiting for ETV funds?

If the youth has applied for ETV funds but has not been funded yet, Chafee room and board assistance may be used until ETV funds are available. If the youth is attending school, room & board funds may not be used.

58. What is considered part-time during the summer session of college?

If the youth is enrolled and attending one class during the summer session that is considered part-time. The youth may continue to receive housing assistance from ETV while attending school part-time during the summer session.

59. Can room and board funds be used at 100% in the summer?

Room and board funds are to be used to supplement the youth's efforts, not to support them entirely. Youth may be assisted in paying their summer rent but not at 100%.

60. Since ETV checks are really unreliable, can room and board funds be used to assist the youth with housing funding?

No. ETV checks are reliable once the youth has provided the required documents to the contractor (Orphan Foundation). Many youth do not get the financial aid forms returned from the college in order to release funds for distribution. Until the forms are returned, funding will not be released. Youth should not depend on ETV funding totally for housing assistance. Part time employment should help to cover housing costs while in college.

61. What constitutes summer (June, July, and August) for ETV funding?

It depends on the school the youth attends and the schedule of the school. Summer may include May, June, July, and/or August.

62. If a youth is attending a post-secondary institution and not getting ETV funds, can Chafee funds be used?

If a youth is enrolled in and attending a post-secondary institution, they must access ETV funds only. Chafee funds may not be used for youth attending a post-secondary institution

63. What if students refuse to apply for ETV funds because of a problem with the contractor?

If there is a problem with the contractor, the State IL Coordinator should be contacted so the problem can be resolved.

64. What if a student drops out of school? Can they receive room and board assistance then?

Room & Board funds can be used if the eligible youth is no longer enrolled and attending a post-secondary institution. If the student is still enrolled and not attending, eligibility for funding remains with ETV.

65. Can a youth who aged out of foster care and is now 19 and in the reserves access ETV?

Yes.

66. Can ETV pay for a ward still in foster care?

If the youth has a high school diploma or is above the compulsory age of education and has a GED, they may access ETV funds prior to their case being dismissed.

SUGGESTIONS

If you have any suggestions regarding information that your agency would like to have printed in this newsletter, please contact Mary Lou Easter at mary.easter@dcs.in.gov. We want this newsletter to be a means of disseminating information so that all IL providers receive the same information at the same time. The newsletter will be developed periodically when issues come up that needs to be shared. We appreciate all of the hard work that your agencies provide on behalf of the youth in foster care and those previously in foster care!

To continue receiving the Chafee IL News Bulletin and the Chafee Newsletter for service providers, it is vital that any changes in staff or email addresses are provided to Mary Lou Easter at mary.easter@dcs.in.gov.